LETTERS@METRO.US

HOW TO PREVENT DATING OVERLOAD {page 11}

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BOSTON
Thursday, February 2, 2012

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Regulations force bars to coddle the bottle

Bars' bottle service request at hearing highlights restrictions But in the Hub, bottle service doesn't mean what you think it does {page 02}

Metropolitik

Does Romney really not care for the poor?

GOP front-runner stumbles over populist message Tax, budget proposals tell the true story of Mr. 1 percent {page 06}

Valentine's Day gift guide

'Oh, you shouldn't have!' Need help picking that special something for that special someone? {page 12}

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In the news

500

Number of people that have testified against the T's proposed cuts and fare increases at the last nine public hearings with MBTA officials. There are more than 10 additional meetings still scheduled. A decision is expected in the spring and the cuts and fare hike would be implemented July 1. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Warm day in Boston reminds me I will soon be spending evenings listening to @JerryRemy. Looking forward to it."

@WANNABETHEO ON HOW BASEBALL SEASON DOESN'T SEEM FAR AWAY WHEN IT REACHES NEARLY 60 DEGREES ON FEB. 1.

▶ Wilson

Cops catch jerk on T bus

QUINCY. A Quincy man was arrested Tuesday after he allegedly took out his genitals and began masturbating in front of passengers while on an MBTA bus.

Michael Wilson, 51, was charged with open and gross lewdness and lascivious behavior.

Officers responded to Ashmont station where a victim and bus driver said Wilson unzipped his jeans and masturbated on the bus from Quincy, police said. METRO

Pepping Tom reports at BU

BOSTON. Boston University police issued a warning to students this week after coeds were filmed by a "peeping Tom" while showering.

The students live in a dorm at 273 Babcock St., police said. The separate incidents occurred Jan. 22 and 25 in the same dorm.

Each student reported that while they were in the shower, they saw the person holding a cell phone up from under the shower stall. METRO

Man killed by train

ROXBURY. A man was struck and killed by an Amtrak train in Roxbury late Tuesday night.

Steve Kulm, an Amtrak spokesman, said a train traveling from Richmond to Boston with 85 passengers on board struck the man on the tracks at Ruggles station around 6 p.m. Police said the incident is still under investigation and the man's name has not been release

METRO/BOSTON.COM

News in pictures

Former mayor laid to rest after procession

Hundreds of people turned out yesterday for the procession and funeral of former Mayor Kevin White.

White, 82, died Thursday. He lead Boston for 16 years as mayor and was credited with helping to turn it in to a world-class city. METRO

1: The casket of former Mayor Kevin White makes its way into St. Cecilia's church for the funeral Mass yesterday.
2: An honor guard stands at attention as White's casket is carried out of St. Cecilia's after the funeral service.
3: Mourners left flowers on the arm of a statue of the former Boston mayor which stands near Faneuil Hall.
4: A Clear Channel billboard on Cambridge Street in Boston honored and thanked White for his service.

PHOTOS: NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Want to try bottle service? It's not what you think

Board to decide today on request by three bars who say bottle service in demand Alcohol regulations don't allow bottle to be left at tables

In New York City, club crawlers can pop into bars and order bottle service, pouring drinks freely through the night.

But in Boston, nightclubs must abide by stricter laws, and have servers babysit the bottle, rather than leave it at a customer's table.

"It's kind of a mislabeled scenario," said Frank Stavrianopoulos, general manager at District on Lincoln Street. "It's not like New York where you have a bottle set at the table."

The regulations, peculiar in some other major cities, were highlighted yesterday as three Boston bars went before the city's Licensing Board to request "bottle service."

Red Lantern, Kennedy's Midtown and Howl at the Moon all applied for Boston's version of at-table service.

"[Red Lantern] currently has reservations several weeks out and it's an accommodation for these guests for special occasions when they are all drinking the same bottle," said attorney Karen Simao, who was representing the restaurant.

At District, Stavrianopoulos said people only pay for the amount they drink, rather than the entire bottle.

He likened the service to having a "personal bartender," who monitors drink consumption.

"When you get visitors from other cities, they look at you like you have two heads," he said.

The three establishments that petitioned for the service yesterday also must employ "bottle hosts," the only ones allowed to handle the alcohol.

The board is scheduled to make a decision on the requests today.

"They have to show ... they will be able to provide bottle service while staying within the confines of the current law," said Jean Lorizio, council to the board.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

NYC never needs a bottle sitter

In New York City, Marquee bar leaves the booze at your service.

- Bottle minimum is $350.
- Must have 4 to 5 people for every bottle.
- People can request bottle service at the door.
- Bottle is left with patrons.
- Mixers are at the table to make your own drinks.
- A patron decides how much they want to put in a drink.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Some Boston bars petitioned for as close to bottle service as they're allowed.

Looking for your bus? Just text the T

Dial 266266 New initiative comes at no cost to the T or texter

If you don't have a fancy smartphone to download all of the apps the MBTA has to offer on real-time bus and train data, then just send a simple text message and you can find out when your ride will arrive.

The MBTA yesterday launched its first text-based information service. The agency partnered with CooCoo, a New York software company specializing in transit apps, to roll out the real-time program that tells waiting riders exactly when the T bus is scheduled to pull up by sending commuters a text message.

"It's a great way to get your arrival times, and it's a next step in our initiatives to make real-time bus and other information as available as possible," said Josh Robin, special assistant to the general manager for innovation and special projects.

Robin said the partnership didn't cost the T any money and there is no additional cost to customers to text.

"It's a huge win-win," he said.

The real-time text message pilot will be expanded to additional T bus routes and Commuter Rail trains in the coming weeks with the hope of implementing it for all underground trains in the future.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

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Afghan coalition plans to end combat role in '13

WASHINGTON. U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said the NATO-led coalition fighting in Afghanistan wants to end its primary combat role starting in mid-2013 and drop back to advising Afghan forces that are increasingly taking the lead.

The decision establishes a milestone for leaders of NATO, who in Lisbon in 2010 called for transferring security responsibility nationwide to Afghan forces by the end of 2014.

"We'll still be very much engaged in helping them as we move into 2014," Panetta said yesterday. "It's not going to be the kind of formal combat role that we're involved in now."

The timetable may help resolve a rift in the coalition last week, when French President Nicolas Sarkozy said his nation would withdraw its troops a year earlier than the goal set in Lisbon. Panetta signaled he would press France to get back in line. **BLOOMBERG**

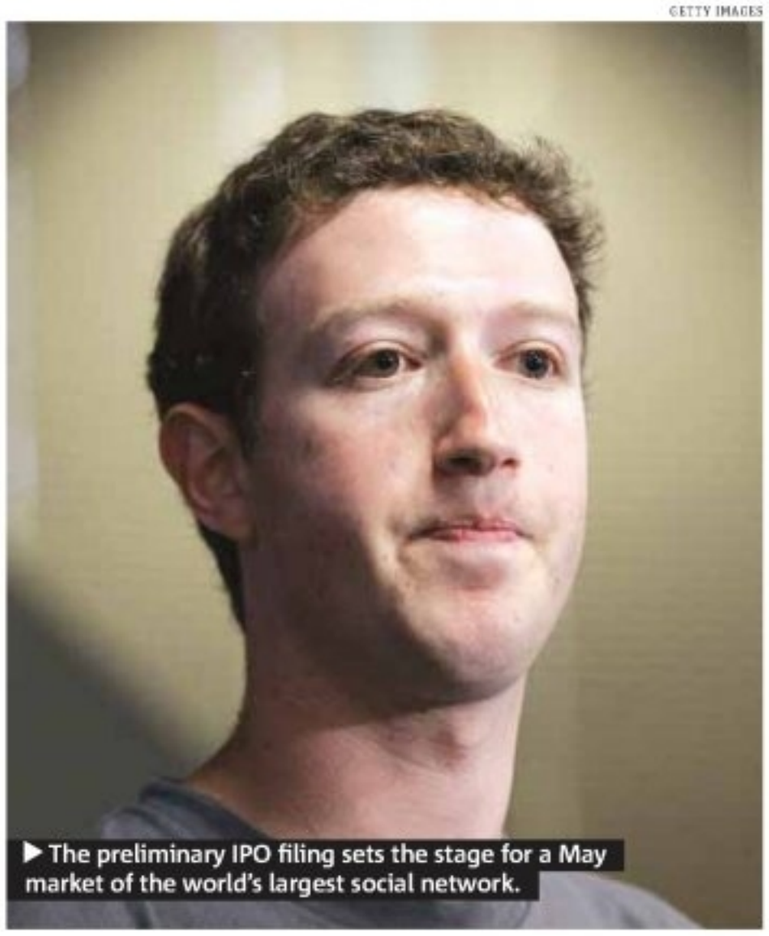
Obama presses congress for homeowners

President Barack Obama yesterday pressed lawmakers to back a $5 billion to $10 billion plan to help U.S. homeowners refinance, part of an election-year package that is unlikely to overcome Republican opposition in Congress.

Obama moved to counter Republican criticisms that the proposal would use taxpayer money to bail out irresponsible borrowers by stressing that only homeowners current on their payments could benefit. Obama sketched out the plan in his State of the Union. **REUTERS**

Facebook files $5B IPO

GETTY IMAGES



▶ The preliminary IPO filing sets the stage for a May market of the world's largest social network.

The company founded by Mark Zuckerberg in a Harvard dorm room in 2004 picked Morgan Stanley to take the coveted "lead left" role in what is expected to be the largest IPO ever to emerge from Silicon Valley.

The other four bookrunners chosen were Goldman Sachs, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Barclays Capital and JP Morgan, although the underwriting syndicate could be expanded later, IFR cited the sources as saying.

The preliminary IPO filing sets the stage for a May market of the world's largest social network, IFR reported, a coming-out party that will dwarf almost any before that, including Google Inc.'s $2 billion IPO.

Morgan Stanley's experience in arranging major Internet IPOs — including those of Groupon and Zynga — helped it clinch a pivotal role after an unusually secretive selection process, IFR reported.

Final pricing would not be set for several months, during which the size of the IPO could be increased should investor demand warrant it, IFR added.

$5B

The $5 billion is a preliminary target and could be ramped up in coming months in response to investor demand, IFR added.

The IPO — expected to be one of the largest U.S. market debuts in history — has whipped up a frenzy of investor and media speculation this month, buoying shares in social media peers from RenRen to LinkedIn and igniting fierce competition on Wall Street.

The IPO — a prized trophy for any investment bank — likely set a new standard for how low its arrangers are willing to go on advisory fees to win big business, analysts say. **REUTERS**

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Fresh off Florida win, Romney loosens lips

▶ Mitt Romney's campaign is financed in large part by incredibly wealthy donors. The average contribution to Romney's Restore Our Future super PAC was $103,000; in contrast, the average donation to President Obama's super PAC was only $55.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Metropolitik

BRAYDEN SIMMS

POLITICAL REALISM FOR THE URBAN PROLETARIAT

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Mitt Romney, by his own admission, doesn't really care about America's poor. At least, that's one of the big campaign stories making the rounds following the handsome .01-percenter's win in Florida on Tuesday. But is it true? Let's take a closer look.

On CNN yesterday, Romney said the following: "I'm not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there. If it needs repair, I'll fix it. I'm not concerned about the very rich; they're doing just fine. I'm concerned about the very heart of America, the 90 percent, 95 percent of Americans who right now are struggling."

Romney thinks America's poor don't deserve his concern due to our federal safety net. Unfortunately for the nation's neediest citizens, his proposals seem aimed at unraveling that net. According to a Tax Policy Center analysis, for instance, the wealthy would be the overwhelming beneficiaries of his tax plan — with the lower classes picking up a larger share of the tab — due to a proposed reduction in the corporate rate, elimination of the capital gains rate and a repeal of the estate tax, among other regressive ideas. When tax incomes then drop, politicians are going to look for ways to make up the difference from this social net — programs like Social Security and Medicaid. Romney has also endorsed the Paul Ryan budget proposal, which cuts some $3 trillion from such low-income programs.

Recently released fundraising data also incline one toward skepticism over Romney's claim that he's not out to help the rich. Considering that his super PAC received $17,947,952.77 from a scant 181 contributors, one can see that the very wealthy make up Romney's donor base — the implication being that Romney will likely seek to repay this generosity by helping to enrich them even further.

Moving on, let's parse Romney's claim that he's concerned about the 90-plus percent of struggling Americans, what he would presumably think of as the middle class. (Here we see how, despite claims to the contrary, the Occupy movement has impacted mainstream debate.) According to various estimates, this crucial segment of the American population may actually comprise between 25 percent to 66 percent of households. Assuming a very conservative estimate of 66 percent, with the rich making up the so-called 1 percent, that leaves a third of Americans who can write off any specific Romney concern — 33 percent of the country apparently subsisting on a social net that the presumptive Republican nominee will surely attempt to dismantle while presumably attacking the left over "class warfare." Classy.

See, as Romney himself is countering, context does indeed matter. But then, with Gingrich campaigning against Obama the "food stamp president," the context in this contest is not exactly heartening.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Because sometimes you only have time to skim the headlines:

- "Inevitability Restored" **SLATE**
- "Republicans' Romnesignation" **THE DAILY BEAST**
- "Newt Gingrich loses Florida — and reminds us why" **RIGHT TURN**
- "Now Newt May Get Even Nastier" **MOTHER JONES**
- "House GOP seeks to bar the use of welfare funds at strip clubs" **THE HILL**
- "The media ♥ Newt Gingrich" **WASHINGTON POST**
- "Women abandon Gingrich" **ASSOCIATED PRESS**
- "Romney Team Silent On Key Offshore Tax Avoidance Question" **TPM**
- "Brad Pitt's next role: Newt Gingrich?" **POLITICO**

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Unusual Dial	$8,000	Elgin	$650
Unusual Function	$40,000	Gruen	$1,200
Unusual Shape	$11,000	Hamilton	$250
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		All Others	Quoted

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myentertainment

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jessica Simpson is feeling puffy, Josh Groban isn't worried about Newt Gingrich's plans, Jewel is enjoying life on the ranch and Steve Martin is aware of how powerful he is.

@JessicaSimpson: Woke up looking like the lip injection fairy visited me in the night! Is this how pregnancy face begins?! Yikes!

@joshgroban: Newt's moon colony will cost us nothing. It will be paid for with moon money printed at a moon mint by a to-be-appointed moon treasurer.

@jeweljk: We have 56 calves on the ground- SO cute- ya just wanna hug them all!

@SteveMartinToGo: PLEASE DO NOT READ IF YOU ARE EASILY HYPNOTIZED: You are feeling sleepy.

Jewel

THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip **@monicaatmetro** **monica.weymouth@metro.us**

– Dorothy Robinson will return on Feb. 7.

Relax: There will be no mini Snooki

For a few brief, terrifying moments yesterday, we feared **Snooki** was pregnant.

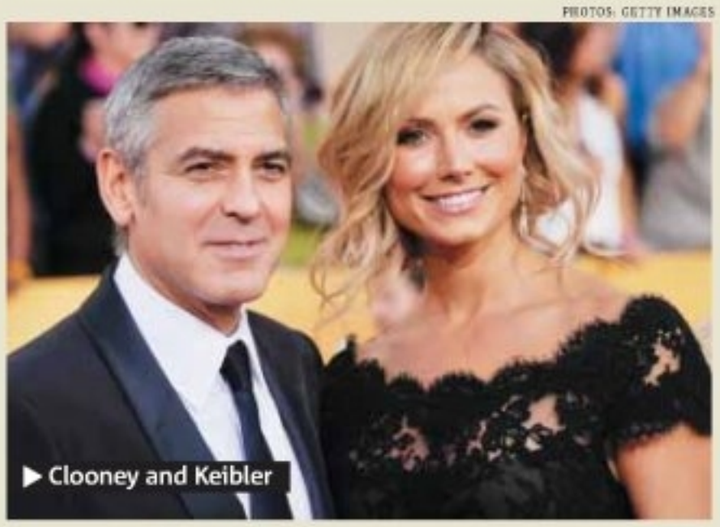
It all started with an ugly, horrible, breakfast-ruining rumor from RadarOnline. "She's been telling people that she has a big announcement coming," a source told the site, adding that boyfriend **Jionni LaValle** had been sharing the news with close family and friends.

A photo search mercifully didn't reveal a Snooki baby bump. But it also suspiciously failed to turn up the expected number of drunk duck faces — say it ain't sober!

Finally, she made an appearance on **Opie & Anthony** to set the record straight: There will be no spawn of Snooki. "Why are people calling me fat?" she wondered. "That's so rude!"

It is rude, Snooks. It is rude and we won't stand for it.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES


▶ Clooney and Keibler

Listen to how private she is

Stacy Keibler is a very private person, even if she is dating **George Clooney**. "I have always tried to stay as private as I can be, and George is a very private person — and so, yes, it is hard to try and retain some sort of normalcy and privacy at times," she tells the Huffington Post.

Did you catch the George Clooney part? That involves being beautiful and famous and primping for the SAG Awards. Do tell, Stacy: "It was really fun picking a dress that's comfortable, and easy was the key. Then just figuring it out: 'How am I going to do my hair?'"

Born this way, please

While we don't (yet) have to worry about a wild pack of **Snookis** terrorizing the Jersey Shore for generations to come, **Lady Gaga** is thinking babies — but not with her current boyfriend, **Taylor Kinney**. "I want a baby from an Italian — possibly Sicilian — donor," the singer says in an interview with Spain's Radio Ibiza.

A terrestrial, eh? You're losing your edge, Gaga.

Talking points

Don Cornelius: 1936-2012

"Soul Train" producer and host **Don Cornelius** was found dead in his Los Angeles home early yesterday morning from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Cornelius created the show in 1970 and hosted it until 1993. "He was a true television visionary, and his contributions to African-American culture, music and entertainment are incomparable. The outpouring of affection and tributes to his legacy are a true testament to the profound impact that his life's work had on many generations," said **Kenard Gibbs**, CEO of Soul Train Holdings, in a statement.

▶ Cornelius

Reality star Leslie Carter dies at 25

Leslie Carter — younger sister of Backstreet Boys' **Nick Carter** and a star of "House of Carters" — died Tuesday in New York. No details have been released regarding the cause of death. "Our family is grieving right now, and it's a private matter. We are deeply saddened for the loss of our beloved sister, daughter and granddaughter, Leslie Carter. We request the utmost privacy during this difficult time," her family said in a statement.

Scarlett moving on — and moving

▶ Johansson

After her divorce from **Ryan Reynolds** and brief relationship with **Sean Penn**, **Scarlett Johansson** appears to be dating a new man, a New York advertising executive named **Nate Naylor**, according to People magazine. "They've been dating for five months," a source says, though the two have been much more public with their affection in the past week, strolling around New York City with arms around each other. Meanwhile, Johansson is said to be looking for an apartment in London — primarily to avoid Reynolds and his girlfriend, "Gossip Girl" star **Blake Lively**. "She was always a little uncomfortable about the fact that Ryan and Blake worked together while she was still married to him," a source tells the Daily Mail. A rep for Johansson would only say, "She is not making London her permanent base."

FRESHLY MADE DELICIOUS.

New Turkey Cheddar Bacon

DUNKIN' DONUTS

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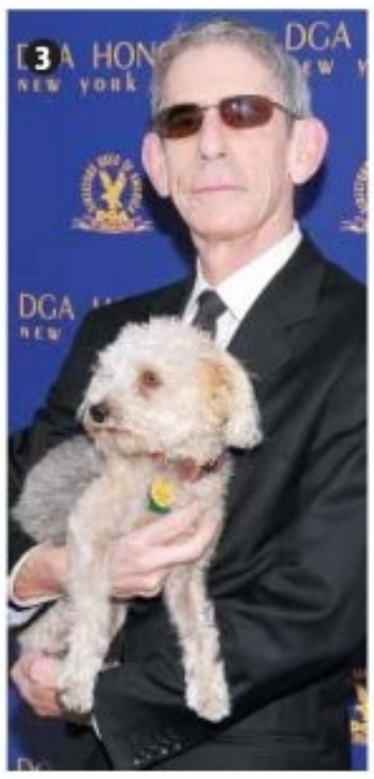

Red carpets that went to the dogs

We're already bored with the awards season gowns. But you know what we never get tired of? Puppies. Here are some of the best mutt struts in the past year.

1: Meet **Kasey**, who stars in the upcoming "Darling Companion" along with Diane Keaton.

2: No handler needed: Skateboarding pup **Tillman** is a red carpet-worthy star in his own right.

3: Richard Belzer brought a good friend along to the Directors Guild of America Honors.

4: Betty White puckered up at the American Humane Association's Hero Dog Award party.

5: "Tintin" star **Jamie Bell** gets a snuggle from a Snowy look-alike.

6: Our most anticipated Oscars 2012 moment: "The Artist" star **Uggie**'s red carpet tricks.

7: Ice-T, **Coco** and their pooch, **Spartacus**, attended the Long Island Bulldog Rescue Party in December.

1: ALBERTO E. RODRIGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES
2: JEFF R. BOOTARI/GETTY IMAGES
3: MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES
4: WIREIMAGE
7: AFP
6: JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC
7: JOHNNY NUNEZ/WIREIMAGE

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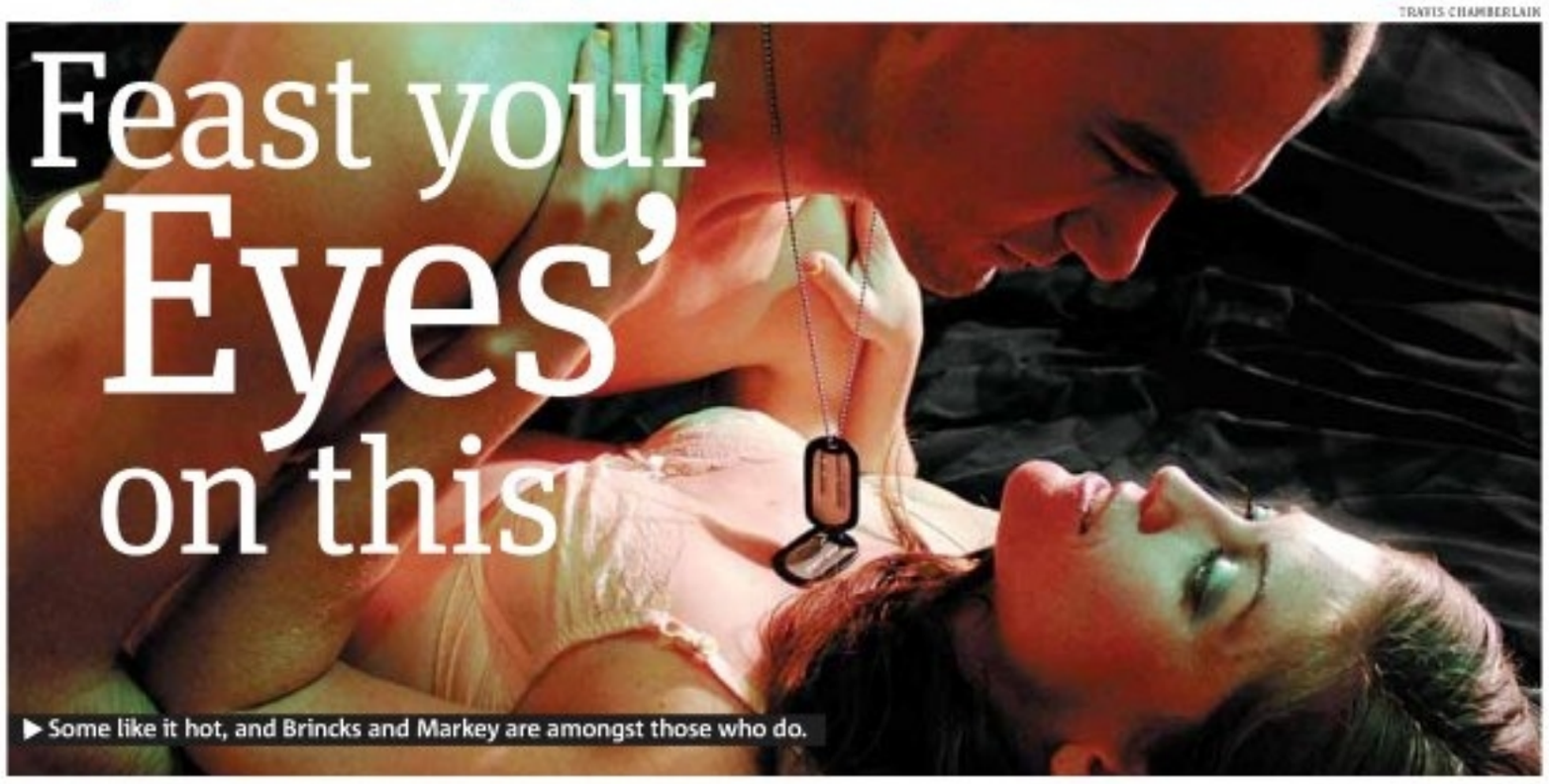
Company One puts together a steamy, site-specific play The only problem is that the play itself is a little 'Green' around the edges

Feast your 'Eyes' on this

TRAVIS CHAMBERLAIN



▶ Some like it hot, and Brincks and Markey are amongst those who do.

"Green Eyes" is a site-specific production of a long-lost Tennessee Williams short brought to Boston by Company One.

Though the concept and its execution are superb, the play itself can hardly be called one of Williams' finest. The 45-minute morning-after story is predictable, dull and lacking the sizzle that usually makes Williams so great.

What makes this production special, however, is that it's set in a hotel room where 25 spectators witness the savagery of a violent pair of newlyweds on the first day of their honeymoon. Clad only in their underwear — his significantly less revealing than hers — the duo spar within inches of the front row of spectators, making the whole experience feel tawdry and voyeuristic.

Though their conversion of the stunning guest room at the Ames Hotel into a seedy '70s-style New Orleans dump isn't terribly convincing (especially when the Orange line trains rumble below), the actors are so believable that you easily feel like you've been sucked into their vortex of seedy chaos.

Erin Markey is superb as the manipulative, sexually-charged minx hell-bent on meeting her own needs and desires. Whether staring at a flame, ferociously attacking her man or momentarily going blank when she learns he won't be supporting her, Markey's consistently stellar performance is nearly spell-binding.

Though Alan Brincks earns raves for his angry outbursts and fighting flashbacks, some of his finest work happens when he's lying in bed smoking a cigarette and clutching the bottle of bourbon. You can almost smell the stale and foul stench of his pathetic life.

The duo creates such revolting chemistry you might feel like you need a shower when your 45 minutes are up.

Plot points

The morning after they're married, Claude Dunphy and his bride definitely have sex on their mind, but not for obvious reasons. Covered with bites and bruises indicative of a wild night, Mrs. Dunphy cagily deflects the inquiries from her drunken husband, who remembers nothing.

'Green Eyes'
Through Feb. 26
Ames Hotel
One Court St., Boston
$35, 800-838-3006
www.CompanyOne.org

NICK DUSSAULT
nick.dussault@metro.us

10 REASONS TO GO TO THE MOVIES

MUST SEE:

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▶ Daniel Radcliffe leaves the gates of Hogwarts... err, no, some other creepy mansion that's more frightening than it is magical in "The Woman in Black."

1 'The Woman in Black'
Daniel Radcliffe's first post-Potter appearance comes in this gothic tale of an 1800s British seaside town terrorized by the ghost of disturbed mother, hell-bent on inspiring the local children to commit suicide. A far cry from Hogwarts, indeed.

2 'Chronicle'
After three friends make a strange discovery in the woods, they find they've gained the power of telekinesis. At first, it's all fun and games — taunting unsuspecting people with made-for-YouTube pranks — but their new abilities soon bring out a darker side.

3 'Big Miracle'
John Krasinski and Drew Barrymore star in this heart-warmer about an Alaskan community coming together to save a family of whales trapped in the Arctic Circle.

4 'The Innkeepers'
The Yankee Pedlar Inn has always been haunted, but just as it's about to close for good, two employees decide to do their own paranormal investigation.

5 'Albert Nobbs'
Glenn Close's Oscar-nominated role of Albert Nobbs — a cross-dressing woman in 19th century Ireland, passing herself off as a man in order to work as a butler — was one she originally played in a stage production in 1982. Spending more than 15 years to get it optioned as a film has obviously paid off.

6 'Haywire'
Though he's known for occasionally producing headier fare, Steven Soderbergh knocks out one heck of an action film when he wants to. This time, he places mixed martial arts fighter Gina Carano in the center of an international assassination plot in which she, the contract killer, becomes the scapegoat for the crime.

7 'Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close'
This 9/11 weeper won't leave many an eye dry, especially with Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock playing the parents of a precocious preteen searching through the whole of New York City for a solution to a riddle.

8 'The Iron Lady'
Meryl Streep is flawless at everything she does and her turn as one of Britain's most controversial prime ministers, Margaret Thatcher, is predictably admirable. Told in flashbacks over the course of three days in Thatcher's later years, the film touches on the highs and lows of her reign in the 1980s.

9 'The Grey'
Liam Neeson has been killing it with the action movies in the last few years, and his latest — a thriller about a group of unfortunate plane crash survivors stranded in rural Alaskan territory — promises to be as fittingly chilling.

10 'Man on a Ledge'
An ex-con (Sam Worthington) takes to the ledge of a Manhattan high-rise, claiming he was framed for a diamond heist. While a hostage negotiator (Elizabeth Banks) tries to talk him down, it becomes clear that ulterior motives are at work.

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How much time should you spend together?

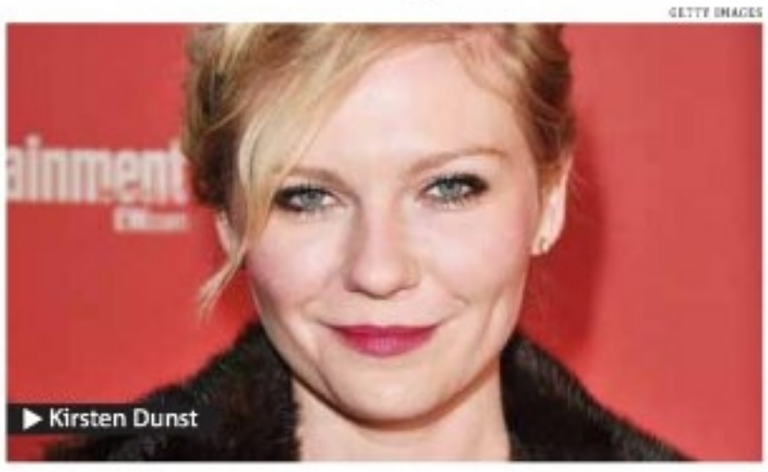
Shrink wrap

DR. JANE GREER

HEALTH.METRO.US

Kirsten Dunst and Garrett Hedlund reportedly spent a lot of time together at the Sundance Film Festival. But when they get back to a more regular schedule, the co-stars of the upcoming movie "On the Road" might be faced with that question all new couples must deal with: How do we mesh our worlds without giving up what is important to us individually and possibly losing ourselves in the process? In other words, how much time should we spend together? It is a tricky question, and the answer might not be the same for each partner.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Kirsten Dunst

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Garrett Hedlund

If one person wants to be together but the other is pulled toward something else — a scheduled appointment, a night out with friends, a quiet evening at home — the first might feel rejected and the other might then feel guilty. You might be able to avoid that if you are clear from the beginning about your boundaries.

Let them know you are excited and looking forward to spending time with them and wish you could make all these other responsibilities disappear, but both of you have things that need your individual attention. As long as you understand that, it will give you the room to do what you need to do and not feel you are neglecting your relationship. The important thing is to emphasize that choosing to do your own thing does not mean you don't want to be together, and if the other person makes the same choice it doesn't mean they don't care about you.

You can be considerate and reassuring by letting each other know when you are free to spend time so that you can both make your separate plans and still preserve time to be with one another.

Ultimately, you want to honor your own needs in tandem with theirs. Hopefully, once Kirsten and Garrett settle into a routine they will be able to do just that.

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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Reader love notes

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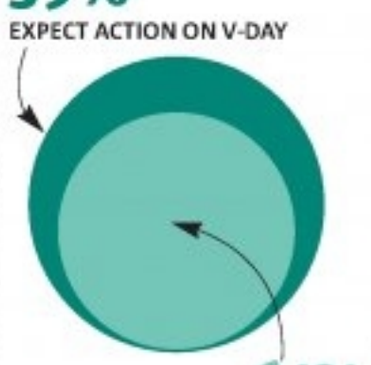
Enter for a chance to win a trip to Madrid! Post your love note online at **www.metroclassifiedsus.adperfect.com**. We'll run it in print and online on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

Valentine's Day: Great sexpectations

Only 39 percent of respondents said they expect action if they are dating someone on Valentine's Day. But 61 percent said it's not an expectation.



THINKSTOCK

Match.com recently surveyed its members to find out how singletons feel about the ultimate date night of Feb. 14. The results may surprise. Firstly, 79 percent of singles would rather spend V-Day alone watching a good movie than going on a boring date. Take heed, those about to ask a potential date out for the big day. These results may serve you well.

- **81 percent of respondents would rather have a romantic meal on Valentine's Day than receive a $100 gift card.**
- 68 percent find it's more important that their date be a good conversationalist than good-looking.
- **78 percent said that red roses are sweet, while 22 percent think they're a cliche.**
- 31 percent of men said that Jennifer Aniston is their celebrity dream date.
- **29 percent of women are dying for a date with George Clooney.** METRO

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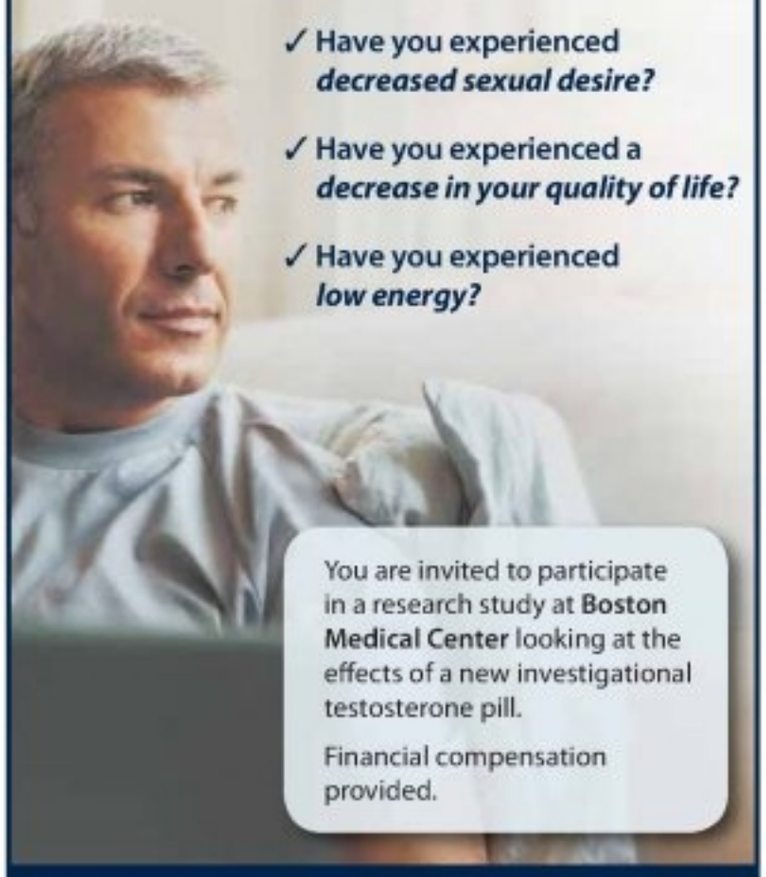
Attention Men



✓ Have you been diagnosed with *low testosterone?*
✓ Have you experienced *decreased sexual desire?*
✓ Have you experienced a *decrease in your quality of life?*
✓ Have you experienced *low energy?*
You are invited to participate in a research study at **Boston Medical Center** looking at the effects of a new investigational testosterone pill.
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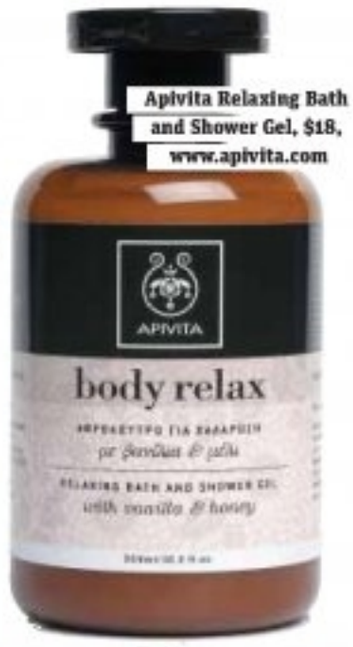
valentine's day gift guide

Gifts that say 'I heart you'

Look — if you're going to indulge in the cheesiest of holidays, you might as well do it with flare It's all about a little pink, a little red and absolutely no oversize teddy bears

Graphic Image Mine Leather Luggage Tags, $26 each, www.graphicimage.com

PRISM by Anna Laub New York glasses, $330, www.prismlondon.com



Apivita Relaxing Bath and Shower Gel, $18, www.apivita.com

Dior Garden Clutch Lip and Eye Palette, $75, www.dior.com

Robindira Unsworth 22k Gold Vermeil ring, $95, www.robindira.com

Oliver Jeffers for Digby & Iona Heart in a Bottle Necklace, $220, www.ojxdi.com

Made By Humans Tea Infuser, $7, www.amazon.com

Jean-Michel Basquiat Candle, $55, www.femininrascal.com

La Prairie Cellular Lip Colour Effects in Berry Glace, $40, www.shoplaprairie.com

Lanson Brut Rose, $49-$59, wine stores nationwide

Stila Love at First Blush Palette, $14, www.stilacosmetics.com

Dolce & Gabbana Passion Duo Gloss Fusion Lipstick in Infatuation, $34, www.saks.com

The Body Shop Chocomania Body Scrub, $18, www.thebodyshop.com

L'Eau de Chloe fragrance, $65-$85, www.saks.com

Butter London Polish in Come to Bed Red, $14, www.ulta.com

Max Brenner, Love Hug Mug, $10, www.maxbrenner.com

Diane von Furstenberg Square Dot Barware, $30-$80, www.bloomingdales.com

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

Letters

letters@metro.us

Mediating media: Reader reactions

RE: "FOX IS JOURNALISM; MSNBC, RACIALISM": Calvin Fuller calling Fox News "journalists" is hilarious. The muppets would be better anchors, if only Kermit wasn't so busy brainwashing children with an anti-oil agenda, I suppose.
MARISSA COLLADO, VIA E-MAIL

It seems that the Fairleigh Dickinson University poll from Nov. 21, 2011 is correct: Those who watch Fox News have less information about news than those who don't watch the news at all.
CHRISTOPHER BROWN, VIA E-MAIL

Thank you, Metro, for giving me such a big laugh. I had a huge smile on my face all through my morning commute after reading the letter that said "Fox News has journalists." It was interesting that this reader singled out Al Sharpton ("playing the race card") of all the other commentators on MSNBC, when he could have mentioned Joe Scarborough, a white former GOP congressman and conservative.
JANET WALSH, VIA E-MAIL

If you don't like the race card then stop being a racist.
ANTHONY YOUNG, VIA E-MAIL

To paint Al Sharpton as the face of MSNBC is quite a stretch — just like calling Fox News journalism!
ROBERT LA ROSA., VIA E-MAIL

Blah blah blah? We're not buying it

RE: "CODED LANGUAGE IN POLITICS?": I would like to tell Rick Santorum and his cronies that, like millions of "blah" people around the country, I work hard every day and have never been on public assistance. In fact, I've been working since I was 16, and at times I've held two jobs. I know that not all Republicans are racist, but with leaders like these, no wonder the overwhelming majority of African-Americans are Democrats!
MELISSA TULIN, VIA E-MAIL

"Rep. Paul may not seem corrupt, but that doesn't make his agenda any less insane."

RE: "RON PAUL SITS AT THE TOP OF THE LEAST-CORRUPTIBLE LIST": I'll grant Rep. Paul's record suggests he's "cleaner" than most of Washington. But does Ms. Donnoe support the whole of his agenda, including the privatization of Social Security, ending environmental and financial regulations or reducing women (herself included) to second-class status? Rep. Paul may not seem corrupt, but that doesn't make his agenda any less insane.
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

Bain, Wall Street: Our toxic elites

Most people on the right agree that Bain Capital did legal business activities, and I agree. Bain Capital did clean up some companies, bettering their management. But I morally disagree with how this organization bought up many more companies and dismantled them for a quick profit, leaving hundreds of thousands of honest, hard workers without jobs. This result was as toxic as all those corporate "Wall Street" banks. Each left destruction in its path.
ROBERT DENNEN, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

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Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** You should give top priority to matters that are of personal importance. You won't be nearly as effective if you have to divide your time juggling multiple projects for others.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You have far greater reserves to draw from than you might realize. This will become evident when you have to deal with an unexpected challenge, and you'll do so with aplomb and ginger.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** This can be a good day for launching a new endeavor, especially if there are other people involved. Although, it might be up to you to prime the pump — do so!

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Developments are stirring that could enhance your security. Any dealings you have that directly affect your status and material circumstances should work out swimmingly.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't neglect getting in touch with one of your benevolent contacts who is presently separated from you by distance. Something good could come from re-establishing a line of communication.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You're a tough customer to deceive because you won't take anything for granted or at face value. However, even if you catch someone fibbing, you won't blow things out of proportion.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Because of your desire to be cooperative, others will find you a jovial presence. Any concessions you make will be matched with equal vigor.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Don't waste any more time in focusing efforts on your most ambitious objectives. What has been unattainable in the past is likely to be achieved with relative ease at this juncture.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Check out anything new that you would like to learn. Your ability to absorb knowledge and information is keener than usual, enabling you to pick things up quite quickly.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Provided you leave nothing up to chance, the end results that you were hoping for will come to pass. However, carefully monitor every step you take.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Due to support that was previously denied, sunshine could now be filtering into several situations that have recently been shrouded by dark clouds.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** It could be an interesting day, one where you will finally begin to generate some increased earnings. Do the best job that you can, because your rewards will be proportionate to your productivity.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Cause, as havoc
6 Battery terminal
11 Zoo staffer
14 Accord maker
15 Exit ramp sight
16 Drop the ball
17 Twice as curious
18 Ms. Jong
19 Shad eggs
20 Magnani and Paquin
22 Winter quaff
24 Said hello
28 Refuses to obey
29 Shutter part
30 Are around
32 French friar
33 Allots
35 Dinner checks
39 Yves' eve
40 Lapel ornament
41 John, in Siberia
42 Flower holder
43 Do some roadwork
45 ... for a ___ pittance
46 Weight unit
48 Come from the shadows
50 Insect sounds
53 Wall covering
54 Less cooked
55 Devious moves
57 Big Band __
58 Mirage sights
60 People of northern Iraq
65 Two-BR unit
66 Familiar saying
67 Chopin opus
68 A Stooge
69 Turbine part
70 Beatrice's admirer

Down
1 Owl's query?
2 Retina cell
3 Draw to a close
4 Fruity drink
5 Self-defense art
6 Revise
7 Ibsen woman
8 __ Redding of rhythm and blues
9 Solstice mo.
10 Pleases greatly
11 "Rigoletto" composer
12 Carve a canyon
13 Poker pair
21 Dweeb
23 Frequently (var.)
24 Window covering
25 C-3P0 or R2-D2
26 Pianist __ Blake
27 For keeps, to Keats
28 Bad-mouth
30 The upper crust
31 TV warrior princess
34 Sheik's cartel
36 Prevent from happening
37 River vessel
38 Dirty look
43 ER personnel
44 Bank on
47 Furor
49 Disguised
50 Fix potatoes
51 A Marx brother
52 Steamed
53 Tough question
55 Exam for jrs.
56 Construction toy
59 Shakespeare title word
61 Ms. Hagen
62 Compete in a marathon
63 Banned bug spray
64 Get the drift

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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5	9		4			3	7	
1			2			6		
4			7		1			8
		9			8			1
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					7	5	6	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

M	C	V	I	E	■	L	A	P	P	■	T	A	F	T
A	R	E	A	L	■	I	G	O	R	■	E	L	L	A
G	A	R	N	I	■	T	A	C	O	■	R	O	A	M
I	S	S	■	X	C	H	R	O	M	O	S	O	M	E
C	H	A	L	I	C	E	■	P	R	E	F	E	R	■
■	■	■	I	R	S	■	C	U	T	E	R	■	■	■
B	A	S	E	S	■	C	E	L	L	O	■	F	R	A
U	L	A	N	■	B	O	N	N	Y	■	L	O	U	D
C	P	O	■	D	E	L	T	A	■	N	I	X	E	S
■	■	■	G	Y	R	O	S	■	R	A	P	■	■	■
A	N	T	L	E	R	■	■	W	H	I	S	K	E	R
N	O	B	O	D	Y	S	F	O	O	L	■	A	V	A
A	V	O	W	■	I	T	E	R	■	G	A	P	E	S
M	A	N	E	■	N	U	T	S	■	U	S	U	R	P
E	K	E	D	■	G	N	A	T	■	N	A	T	T	Y

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food&drink

‘Another way to engage the customer’

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ It seems that another one of the rules at jm Curley is not to allow newspaper photographers to shoot the inside of the establishment.

If you go

jm Curley

21 Temple Place,
Boston
617-338-5333
www.jmcurley
boston.com

THURSTY

LUKE O’NEIL

FOLLOW ON TWITTER @LUKEONEIL47

There have been a slew of new openings focused on craft beer and cocktails in the city this year, but too many is never enough. We’re in a struggle against bro-fisted sports bar-homogeneity here, and the more Fernet-and-a-tall-boy bars we have, the better. The latest is jm Curley.

“It’s a bar room in the truest sense of the word,” explains bar manager Kevin Mabry, “where the bar itself is the focal point of the establishment.”

Like nearby 49 Social and Stoddard’s, the bar has an old Boston feel. The narrow room is all exposed brick and candlelight. There’s a sense of humor too, with a chalkboard specials vibe. A bubble hockey table and a beer list broken down by “varietal” (yeasty delights, hop heads, etc.) erases any sense of pretension, as does a tongue-in-cheek list of “rules” for guests to follow. (Most important: “Just don’t be a douchebag.”)

In behavior, as well as drink choice, Mabry isn’t afraid to lead guests: “I wanted to do something a little different in this part of town and really ‘challenge’ the guest to try something new. Artisanal spirits are crafted with purpose and we embrace that. Without coming off pretentious, we simply suggest the guest try something new if we don’t have something they called for.”

That means no Bushmills, no Patron. Instead, he’ll say, for example, they carry Tequila Siete Leguas, from the site where Patron was first produced, “which sparks conversation and sparks the bar room atmosphere. It’s another way to engage the customer.”

Their name is legion

If jm Curley sounds a little bit out of the norm, chalk it up to the bar’s namesake, long-time Boston mayor James Michael Curley. “As shady as he was, he got the job done,” Mabry says. “He was a mayor for the people, the neighborhood guy down the road.”

That’s what they aim to be here. The neighborhood just happens to have slightly better taste than it used to.

And the drinks...

The attempt to differentiate themselves that Mabry mentions shows up in the cocktail recipes as well.

A gin and tonic is made with cinchona bark powder, the basis of quinine, in a tonic syrup. It’s recognizably a G+T, but it has more texture and takes a citrusy and herbal hint from a touch of yellow chartreuse. Their version of a Hemmingway Daiquiri heats up the rum, Marschino, grapefruit and lime with a healthy dose of jalapeno that will put some hair in your nose.

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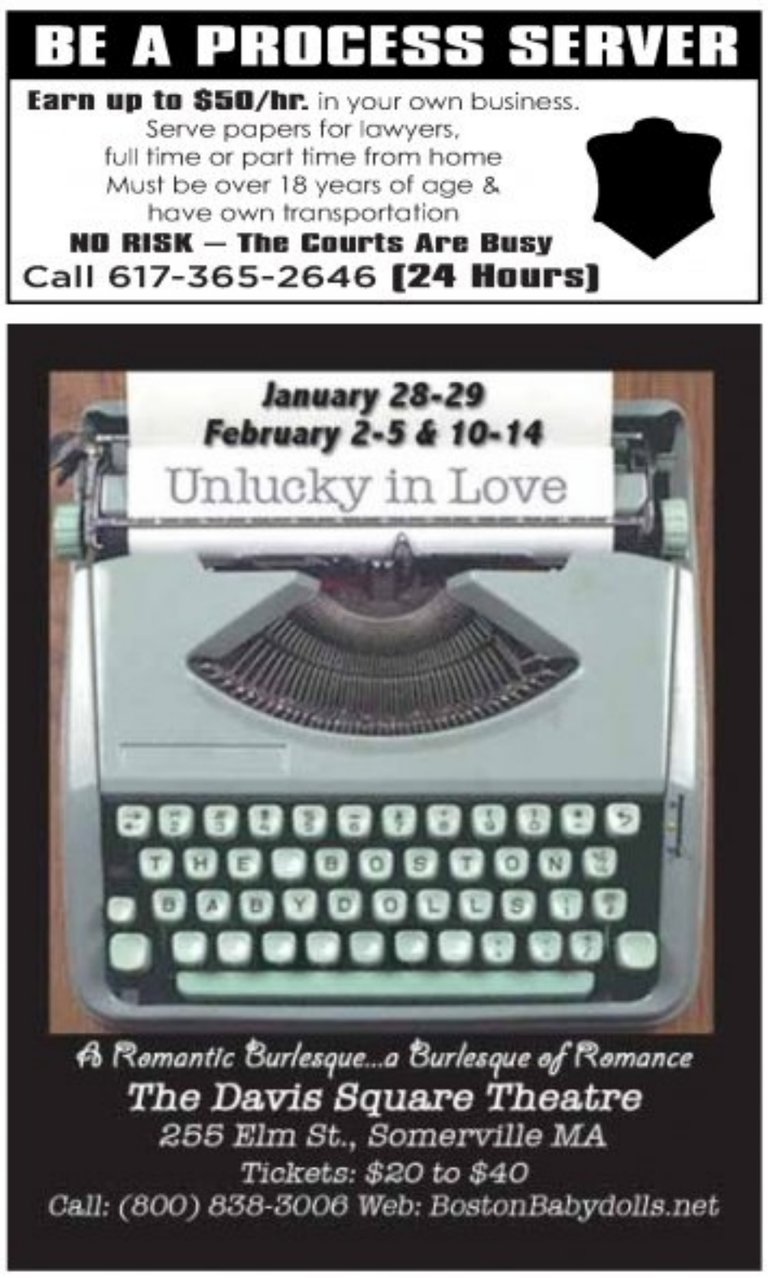
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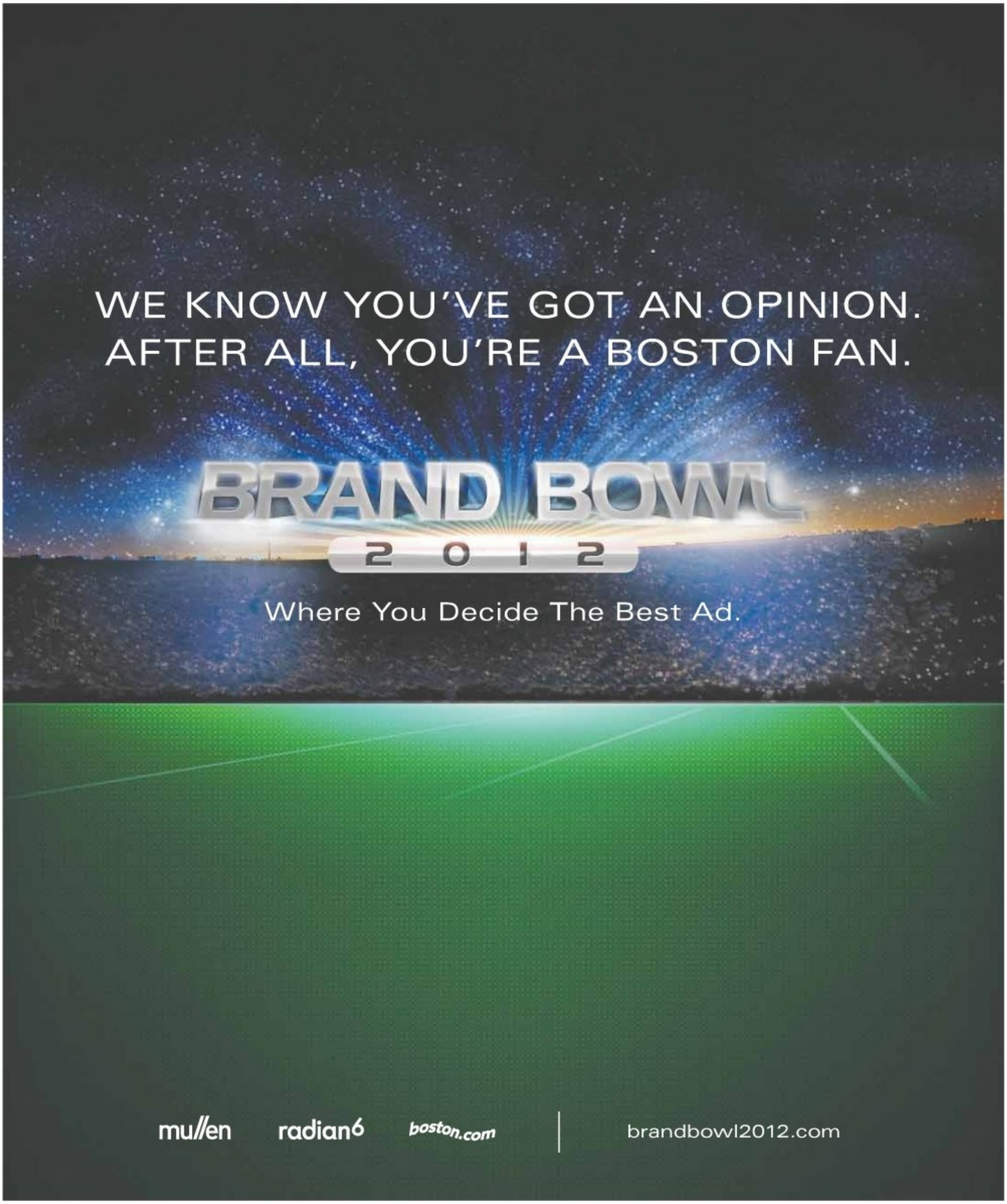
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Overwhelming powers of Darkness

- The feuding brothers in the hair metal revival band still believe in a thing called love
- They put their differences aside for their first shows in the States in eight years

MARIANNE HARRIS

▶ The Darkness, from left, are drummer Ed Graham, bassist Frankie Poullain and the brothers Hawkins, Justin and Dan.

Ambitious 'Collapse'

Justin Hawkins has put aside his hiatus side projects British Whale and Hot Leg, but says he'd like to write a musical soon.

"Not like a musical of our songs, but actually [one with] a storyline. I started to work on one that was called 'The Collapse Of The Lowestoft Fishing Industry,'" he says, referring to the band's hometown, a once lucrative fishing port. "It was going to be, like, the main character has lost his throat to cancer so you have to sing all the songs in a voicebox."

It might not be the most famous of Brit rock brotherly disharmonies, but the Darkness' singer Justin Hawkins and his guitarist brother Dan have had their fair share of sibling incivility. The brothers' lack of good communication was certainly one cause for such a long hiatus for the hair metal revival band.

"There's a lot of stuff that we were getting bogged down in, and that was just not worth it, you know," Justin says via phone just after completing a sold-out autumn tour in the U.K.

"The whole 'life's too short' thing is a good lesson, really," he says.

A 13-date North American tour — the band's first trek to the U.S. in eight years — kicked off last night in Toronto. So far, after reuniting for Britain's Download Festival last June, it has been a triumphant return.

But it was triumph that factored into the band's original problems. After exploding in 2003 with their big hit, a catchy pop metal piece called "I Believe in a Thing Called Love," things went haywire. Reports of Justin's overindulgence in rock 'n' roll's mythical pleasures were rife, but the falsetto-ing frontman says it's the simple life for him from now on.

"When you have a simple existence and it's just about music, then you do great work. And I'm sure that's the same for everybody," he says. "The minute you start trying to balance other factors, it just becomes unmanageable."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

If you go

The Darkness
with Foxy Shazam
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The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
SOLD OUT

Tickets

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March 21
House of Blues

▶ Rusko
May 10
House of Blues

▶ Odd Future

On sale soon

▶ Young Jeezy
March 5
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ Toots and the Maytals
March 20
House of Blues
(On sale Saturday)

▶ Opeth/Mastodon
April 5
The Orpheum
(On sale Friday)

▶ Feist
May 7
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ Rancid
May 20
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ Dark Star Orchestra
June 1
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

Also on stage

Ravel's Operas

Tonight through Sunday
Boston Conservatory Theater
31 Hemenway St., Boston
$10-$25, 617-912-9222
bostonconservatory.ticketforce.com
The Boston Conservatory Opera Program presents "L'Heure espagnole," a comedy about a desperate housewife seeing various suitors while her clock-making husband is off at work. The opera, completed in 1925, is a surreal piece in which a tantrum-throwing kid finds the objects he's broken in his room talking back to him! It's in French with English subtitles.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ravel circa 1937

Sound Icon

Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Institute of Contemporary Art
100 Northern Ave., Boston
$16-$18, 617-478-3103
www.icaboston.org
The inaugural performance in the ICA's "New Music Now" series for 2012 features this 24-piece chamber orchestra, conducted by Jeffery Means, performing Georg Freidrich Haas' "In Vain" in Boston for the first time. The players are swathed in total darkness for much of the performance as a way of expanding the audience's idea of a musical experience.

▶ Georg Freidrich Haas

MATTHEW DINARO

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SOJA
FEAR NUTTIN BAND, THE MOVEMENT

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FEBRUARY 22
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ROBIN LANE & FRIENDS

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DJ AFRO, DJ CHRISTIAN HINOJOSA

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DONAVON FRANKENREITER
ADAM EZRA

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THESE UNITED STATES

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KUNG FU
JEFF BUJAK, PEOPLE WITH INSTRUMENTS

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RIBS

SAT. FEBRUARY 18
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FEBRUARY 21
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BLEEDING RAINBOW

FEBRUARY 22
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FEBRUARY 23
MONA
THE RASSLE

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3

In the news

Make up your mind already

Pitcher Roy Oswalt was said to still be undecided last night as to where he will sign, according to ESPN.

The race for the 34-year-old's services appears to be down to St. Louis, Texas and Boston.

Endless ankle analysis

- Gronk's ankle currently the world's most famous appendage
- Pats' star tight end missed yet another practice in Indy yesterday

The arms of the respective starting quarterbacks most certainly hold the key to victory, but no other body part has been as discussed and dissected as Rob Gronkowski's left ankle.

The hulking tight end didn't practice again on Wednesday, due to his high ankle sprain, which means it's been up to pundits, coaches, players and Gronkowski himself to disseminate whether his role will be reduced or not come Super Bowl Sunday.

It was reported by ESPN last night that Gronkowski may wear a specialized cleat during the game on Sunday.

The 6-foot-6, 265-pound Gronkowski is a downfield threat on seam patterns but isn't as shifty as fellow star tight end Aaron Hernandez (6-foot-1), so the ability to get in and out of breaks shouldn't be a concern. But with a high ankle sprain, a malady that sometimes takes as much as two months to heal, there's little telling how much of an impact Gronkowski can have.

Even though he shed his walking boot Monday and is slowly making strides, Gronkowski isn't sure he'll be able to play Sunday. And judging by his words, he sounded like everyone else's guess was as good as his.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rob Gronkowski has answered approximately 3,567,843 questions about his injured ankle this week.

"I don't know yet. We are going day by day," Gronkowski said. "I'm feeling better every single day, [so] that's a positive sign."

Gronkowski hasn't practiced since getting hurt Jan. 22 in the AFC championship game and shrugged when asked what he thinks his role will be on Sunday.

"If it's a whole game [or] if it's a couple of plays," he said. "No matter what it is, I'm just trying to help the team as much as possible."

Gronkowski is the Patriots' biggest weapon figuratively and statistically. He racked up 90 receptions for 1,327 yards and a tight end single-season record 17 touchdowns.

The Giants, for their part, aren't buying the angst coming out of the Patriots' camp. Not that they think it's all a hoax, rather Gronkowski will be his usually reliable and seemingly indestructible self.

"We're anticipating Gronkowski is going to go," said Giants defensive tackle Chris Canty. "This is obviously a very important football game."

WRITE TO METRO:
SPORTS@METRO.US

Brady's options

If Rob Gronkowski is unable to play or is limited in Super Bowl XLVI, Tom Brady will look to these five players:

1. **Wes Welker** had, yard-wise, his best receiving year in 2011 with 1,569 yards on 122 catches.
2. Gronk's fellow tight end **Aaron Hernandez** has shown the ability to take over a game as he dominated the Broncos in Denver in Week 15, hauling in nine balls for 129 yards.
3. Former Super Bowl MVP **Deion Branch** hasn't had a dominant performance this postseason but few would be surprised if he came up big in Indy. He slaughtered the Eagles this season with 125 yards receiving on six catches.
4. **Chad Ochocinco** is 100-1 odds to win Super Bowl MVP. Could **Matthew Slater** be the better option? The fastest player on the team, Slater was targeted by Brady in the AFC championship game but the play ended with an interception.

TONY WILLIAMS
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Improved Patriots defense sitting silent while Giants talk

Much has been made of the Giants offense over the last two weeks, and rightfully so.

Eli Manning is having the best season of his career. Hakeem Nicks is healthy and tearing up the postseason. Victor Cruz has been, arguably, the biggest surprise of the NFL season. And Mario Manningham can't wait to see if Julian Edelman is in the secondary on Sunday.

The Giants are flying high. In fact, safety Antrel Rolle already (kind of) guaranteed victory. Some might call that cocky. Others would say it's confidence.

"They obviously present a lot of challenges from the quarterback position, to the run game, to the pass game," Patriots safeties coach Matt Patricia said. "I think all of it presents a big problem for us to try to stop it. They're a great offense. They are really clicking right now and have had success, so it's a big challenge for us."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Spikes

Asked what the Patriots need to specifically focus on in preparing for the Giants offense, Pats safety Patrick Chung said, "Everything, I can honestly say everything."

"I just feel like I'm caged up right now, pacing back and forth waiting. I'm ready."
PATS LINEBACKER BRANDON SPIKES

And focusing they are. Patriots defensive captain Jerod Mayo says the team has been locked in since they arrived in Indianapolis, with a businesslike approach to the game all week.

"I think this team is ready to go," Mayo said. "Everyone is working hard. [Tuesday] after Media Day I saw guys in there watching film and they're still studying to prepare for this game. I think the sense of urgency is there and we've just got to keep it going."

As for the Giants' chirping leading up to Sunday, the Patriots can deal with that. They've certainly thrived in the role of the silent assassins before.

For some, like Pats linebacker Brandon Spikes, the week leading up to the game is nothing but fuel to the fire.

"We're on the defense," Spikes said. "I'm going to try to do, by all means, to try and hurt you. That's how I play. I play violent, physical and I feel like if I don't play like that they're going to do it to me."

JIMMY TOSCANO

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